Repair of TV tower in HP

†2208. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the T.V. tower located in Baring Village of Lahaul-Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh is out of order for many months as a result of which people are deprived of the sole source of entertainment;

(b) if so, the details of the steps being taken by Government to restore it at the earliest; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken by Government to reach the T. V. programmes to far-flung villages of tribal districts of Himachal Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROACASTING SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) :(a) and (b) VLPT, Jhalma (Baring Gaon) is an unmanned transmitter. Faults in the equipment, as and when these occur, are attended to at the earliest possible by the Maintenance Centre, Mandi. At present, the above transmitter is reported to be functioning normally, except for slight distortion in audio signal. Staff from the Maintenance Centre has been deputed to attend to the audio problem.

(c) At present 46 transmitters (HPTs-3, LPTs-9, VLPTs-32, Transposers-2) of varying power are functioning in Himachal Pradesh. For further expansion of the TV service, 7 VLPT projects are under implementation in the State.

Interactive FM channel for prompt response

2209. SHRI C. NARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of an interactive FM channel for communicating with policemen and people for prompt response;

(b) whether Prasar Bharati came to an agreement with the Home Ministry on the proposal; and

(c) if so, by when Government expect to bring it into effect ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Prasar Bharati and Bureau of Police

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs to provide its AM/FM Radio Channels, as a medium of training of Police personnel posted in various Police Training Institutes all over the country.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that the scheme would be introduced on the availability of the content from BPR&D.

Setting up of LPT centres in Tamil Nadu

2210. SHRI RIKA. RA. SUBBIAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of number of LPT centres in Tamil Nadu ;

(b) whether there is a demand or thinking on the part of Government to set up more LPT centres in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Forty one LPT centres are presently functioning in Tamil Nadu.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Fourteen more LPT centres are presently under implementation in the State.

Performance of FM stations

2211. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of FM stations operating as on date;

(b) the details of their performance;

(c) the steps taken to ensure good quality of programmes put across by these stations; and

(d) whether Government have realised the financial target visualised in this venture?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) As on date, 130 FM transmitters are operational in the country, including 2 stations set up by private agencies.

(b) and (c) The performance of AIR FM stations has been excellent both in terms of content and quality. The programme pattern of the Prasar Bharati Stations is discussed at various levels and carefully crafted. It has been the